

[Private.]

1859
1854

Rockport, June 28, 1859

Dear Sir

To W. Garrison
very cord

J. L. Whitney
Oct. 31, 1946

I promised Mr. May to inform you whether I could go to Framingham on July 4. I should, if I could, but it is impossible. I am sick from overwork & with a bad cough; I am only very slowly recovering here. My heart is with the meeting at Framingham, as the ~~only~~ only one in which the right view of our national condition is likely to be taken.

I have one quarrel with you Mrs. Garrison, for the unjust way in wh. you spoke on the attack on the Court House. An action which has given the greatest impulse to Anti-Slavery in Mass. since the first number of the Liberator was published, should not have been slighted in the Liberator as "hasty, unpremeditated & ill-advised", (I quote fr. memory) To be sure it is well enough the dock shall, to the public opinion now, & save those in prison fr. danger. But I stand ready to prove, when the time comes, that the attack was planned deliberately, cautiously, & (as the abstract doctors proved) most judiciously. That if it ~~failed~~ had not been made, no other would have been made. That this failed, partly thro' the cowardice of a mob, & more thro' the treachery of some of the my men whose courage was most relied on, & whose

shrinking would have ruined any enterprise, & especially a daylight one. That fuller information was not sent to the leaders at Faneuil Hall was not for want of effort, but for physical impossibility of getting it. For the same reason it was impossible for those who planned the attack to know that Wendell Phillips took the course he did, however judicious the course under the circumstances as he saw them.

Of course I do not expect you, as a non-resistent, to sympathize with such an attack, but I am sorry that the Liberator, wh. with me do give the chief materials for the history of this affair, shd. undertake its policy in a way wh. the Post & the Courier did not do. At the same time, for the sake of those who are to be tried for murder, I do not desire to have the error corrected.

Yours with most cordial respects
J. W. Higginson.